21. (withdrawn) A lead-acid battery having a plurality of paperless battery plates produced by the method of claim 8.

A marked up copy of claim 1captioned **Versions with Markings to show Changes Made** is enclosed.

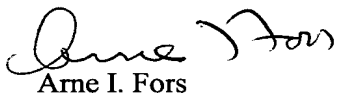
REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment is accompanied by a Request for Continued Examination and a Petition for One-Month Extension of Time, thereby extending the due date for responding to the Final Rejection to November 1, 2003.

Entry of the amendments to the claims submitted April 14, 2003 and August 26, 2003 is respectfully requested. It is requested that apparatus claims 9 – 17 and product claims 18 – 21 be withdrawn.

Favourable consideration of the amended claims 1 – 8 and their allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
Marlow, et al.



Arne I. Fors
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Encls.

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Versions with Markings to Show Changes Made

1. A method for cutting pasted expanded, punched or cast continuous metal mesh strip into paperless battery plates for lead acid batteries with a cutting device comprising heating said cutting device to a temperature above [a predetermined minimum temperature] at least about 150°C whereby the paste does not adhere to the heated cutting device.

4. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 1 in which the cutting device comprises cutting blades mounted on a [cutting] die roll.

5. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 4 in which the cutting device additionally comprises an index mechanism, an anvil roll opposed to said [cutting] die roll for receiving the pasted metal mesh strip therebetween and in which the cutting blades, the [cutting] die roll and the anvil roll are heated to a temperature in the range of about 160 to 300°C.

6. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 5 in which the cutting blades, the [cutting] die roll and the anvil roll are heated to a temperature in the range of about 180 to 210°C.